

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,
ALONG WITH THE
SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT,
FOR THE
Hebden Bridge Urban District Council
BY
FRANCIS J. DOWDALL,
M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O.

Presented April, 1924.

HEBDEN BRIDGE:

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HEBDEN BRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

To the Chairman and Members of the Hebden Bridge
Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,—

I have the honour to report on the health of the Hebden Bridge Urban District for the year 1923.

Hebden Bridge is a town occupying a small area of 476 acres, with narrow valleys surrounded by steep hills, and having some roads with gradients of 1 in 6. The lowest road level is about 320 feet and the highest about 710 feet above sea level. The rivers Calder and Hebden flow through the town. The inhabitants belong principally to the working classes, the chief industry of the district being the wholesale clothing trade. The population is 6,507. There are 1,944 houses in the district and all are inhabited, the estimated average number of occupants per house for the year 1923 being 3.3. The rateable value is £44,989, and the sum represented by a penny rate is £170 nett. There is a shortage of houses in the district, with resultant overcrowding, there being six further instances discovered during the year.

The amount of Poor-Law Relief for the year ending 1923 was £734 4s. 10d.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

		Total	M.	F.	
Births	{ Legitimate ...	76	45	31	} Birth-rate (R.G.) 11·9 per 1000
	{ Illegitimate ...	2	1	1	
Deaths ...	...	90	37	53	Death-rate (R.G.) 13·8 per 1000
Birth-Rate (England and Wales)					19·7 per 1000.
Death-Rate (England and Wales)... ..					11·6 per 1000.
Deaths from Influenza—Total 4; Males 3, Females 1.					
Number of Women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth—					
From Sepsis—Nil.			From other causes 1.		
Deaths of Infants under one year of age:—					
Total 5. Males 3, Females 2.					
Deaths of Infants under one year of age per 1,000 births:—					
Legitimate ... 64.		Illegitimate ... Nil.		Total ... 64.	
Deaths from Measles... .. Nil.					
Deaths from Whooping Cough Nil.					
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)... .. 1					
Deaths from Scarlet Fever 1					
Deaths of Infants under 1 year per 1000 Births—					
England and Wales					69

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

Disease.		Total cases notified.	Cases admitted to hospital.	Deaths
Diphtheria	...	7	6	Nil
Scarlet Fever	...	31	28	1
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid).....		1	1	Nil
Puerperal Fever	...	Nil	Nil	Nil
Pneumonia	...	8	Nil	4
Erysipelas	...	2	Nil	Nil

Tuberculosis:—

		Admitted to Sanatoria.		Deaths
Pulmonary	{ Male ...	5	4	4
	{ Female ...	4	0	2
	{ Total ...	9	4	6
Non-Pulmonary	{ Male ...	2	Nil	2
	{ Female ...	2	Nil	1
	{ Total ...	4	Nil	3

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Cases			Vision Unimpaired	Vision Impaired	Total Blindness.	Deaths.
Notified	Treated					
	At Home.	In Hospital				
Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

There were 6 deaths from Tuberculosis during the year 1923. All these deaths were notified cases. On notification of a case of tuberculosis, the patient's home is visited by a Health Visitor and Sanitary Officer. Disinfection is carried out on removal of patient or after death. There are tubercular dispensaries held twice a week at Sowerby Bridge and Todmorden. These are well attended by most of the tubercular patients in the district, but it would be a welcome innovation if we had a treatment centre established in Hebden Bridge itself. Patients attending the dispensaries receive advice, medicines, spitting flasks, etc., free of charge, and are, until admission to a sanatorium, under the care of their own doctor and of the Tuberculosis Officer, Dr. G. Liddle.

CAUSES OF SICKNESS.

In the 1st and 2nd quarters of the year there was a prevalence of Scarlet Fever, Mumps, and Chickenpox amongst the school-going children—these cases were principally confined to two schools, which I visited and closed for a short period. On the whole, the year has been a healthy one, the district being comparatively free from infectious diseases.

NURSING ARRANGEMENTS.

There are two District Nurses, trained in general and maternity nursing, attached to the District Nursing Institution. Their services are much requisitioned and highly appreciated. Maternity cases are conducted by these nurses at a small fixed fee. The Nursing Institution is mainly supported by voluntary contributions.

There are altogether five Certified Midwives in the District, practising under the supervision of the Central Midwives Board.

HEALTH PROPAGANDA.

Arrangements were made by the Joint Sub-Committee of the County Council and the Insurance Committee for propaganda during Health Week, which commenced on the 7th October, and as a result the local practitioners and Medical Officer of Health were requested to give addresses to the school children. These short lectures were given to the children in the various schools throughout the district during Health Week, the dominant lesson of each lecture being "Self-help in health," and the consideration of what each individual can do for himself and his neighbour in securing a healthy life. At the conclusion of each address a printed card containing health hints or "Commandments" was given to each child.

MATERNITY AND CHILD-WELFARE CENTRE.

A Maternity and Child-Welfare Centre was established in Hebden Bridge towards the end of the year 1920. Two morning clinics are held weekly, at which a school nurse attends. One afternoon clinic is held weekly for both mothers and babies, at which a school doctor attends. These clinics are run under the auspices of the Public Health Department at Wakefield, and the patients attending the clinics receive both advice and treatment. There are no day nurseries or venereal clinics in the district.

HOSPITALS.

There are no hospitals in Hebden Bridge, but those available for the district are:—

Children.....	Children's Ward of Royal Halifax Infirmary.
Fever.....	Fielden Hospital, Todmorden.
Smallpox.....	Sourhall Hospital, Todmorden.
General.....	Royal Infirmary, Halifax.
Tuberculosis.....	The Sanatoria under County Council Grants.
Maternity.....	Nil.

No Institutional provision provided for unmarried mothers, illegitimate children, or homeless children, other than the Union Hospital (Workhouse).

AMBULANCE SUPPLY.

Infectious cases are removed by an Ambulance from the Fever Hospital. Non-infectious and Accident cases are removed by an Ambulance jointly owned by the Urban Council, the Mytholmroyd Urban Council, and the Todmorden Rural Council. Both these Ambulances are of the modern motor type, and with regard to the Accident Ambulance, patients are called upon to pay a nominal amount on each occasion when the same is used.

LABORATORY WORK.

Pathological and bacteriological examinations are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory at Wakefield. Autogenous vaccines and sera are supplied free of charge to local medical men requiring same. The services of the laboratory are much availed of by all the local practitioners in this district.

Diphtheria antitoxin is supplied by the Urban Council free of charge to any medical practitioner requiring it.

VACCINATION.

Thirty-three vaccinations were performed in the Urban District during the year. There were ten vaccinations performed by me under the Public Health (Smallpox Prevention) Regulations, 1917. The number of vaccinations shows a very much desired increase in numbers from those returned in previous years, and it is earnestly hoped that such an increase may be reported each year.

WEATHER REPORT.

	1923.		1922.		1921.
Mean Temperature ...	46.16		45.46		48.56
Rainfall	57.80		47.02		46.37

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

FRANCIS JOSEPH DOWDALL, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

TABLE C, 1923.

HEBDEN BRIDGE URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.

Nuisance Inspections—

Total Number of Inspections made in 1923, for Nuisances only—141. (For Housing Inspections see Table D).

Nuisances reported in 1923—32.

Nuisances in hand, end of 1922—3.

Total needing abatement—35.

Abated during 1923—31.

Outstanding end of 1923—4.

Notices served, Informal—29. Complied with—25.

Notices served, Statutory—3. Complied with—3.

Total number of Summonses or other legal proceedings—Nil.

Regulated Buildings, Trades, &c.	No. in District.	No. on Register.	Total No. of Inspections Made.	General Condition:	Legal Pro- ceedings (if any.)
Common Lodging Houses	Nil	...	...	...	...
Houses let in Lodgings...	Nil	...	...	...	...
Canal Boats	...	...	3	..Satisfactory	..
Knackers' Yards	Nil	...	...	..	...
Tents, Vans and Sheds ...	Nil	...	...	..	...
Offensive Trades	1	...	1	...	4 ..Satisfactory...
(Tripe Boiling).					

Have the Council declared any other processes to be offensive trades—No.

Drainage and Sewerage—

Any developments during 1923?—No.

Developments still needed as to (a) Want of sewers—Nil.

(b) Improvements of defective sewers—Nil.

Any inadequacy of Sewage Disposal Works or complaints relating thereto?—No.

Are there any sink wastes still needing disconnection?—Yes.

Closet Accommodation—

- Number of Privies with open middens—Nil.
- Number of Pail or Tub Closets—71.
- Number of Privies with covered middens—2.
- Number of Water Closets—1700. Waste-water Closets—17.
- Number of Privies re-constructed during 1923—(a) as w.c.'s—Nil; (b) other—Nil.
- Number of additional Closets provided for old property in 1923—(a) w.c., Houses 17, Factories 3; (b) other—Nil.
- Number of Closets constructed in 1923 for new houses (a) w.c.'s—Nil; (b) other—Nil.

Scavenging—

- Any change during 1923?—No.
- Performed by (a) Council—Yes. (b) Contractor—No. (c) Owners or Occupiers—No.
- How is refuse disposed of? Number of loads to (a) Destructor—Nil. (b) Tips—All to Tip. (c) Farmers—Nil. Total annual cost—£580.
- Is there any inadequacy, and where?—No.
- Any utilisation or salvage of waste material?—No.

Water Supply—

- Any developments during 1923?—No.
- Was supply restricted in any way?—No.
- Any general insufficiency, and where?—No.
- Any action in regard to unsatisfactory quality, and where?—No.
- Any new sources added?—No.
- Any disused sources re-used?—No.

Milk Supply—

- Are Two Registers being kept as required by Section 2 (3) of the 1922 Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act? (a) For Retailers, (b) For Cow-keepers or Wholesale Traders—Yes.
- Have any Licences been granted under the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, to distributors of:—"Certified" milk, "Grade A," "Grade A (Tuberculin Tested)," "Grade A (Pasteurised)," "Pasteurised"—Under consideration.
- Have any Retailers been removed from the Register?—No.

Number of samples taken by Officers of S.A. for analysis under F. & D. Acts—4. Number adulterated—Nil.

Number of samples taken by Officers of S.A. for bacteriological examination—Nil.

What arrangement for periodical Veterinary Inspection of dairy cows?—Nil.

Any instance of disease attributed to milk in 1923?—No.

Number of Cowkeepers in district producing and selling milk—9. Number registered—9.

Number of Retail Milk Sellers who are also Cowkeepers—9.

Number who are Milk Retailers only—Nil.

Total number of Retail Milk Sellers Registered—9.

Total number of Cowsheds—13.

Total number of Inspections in 1923—16.

Date of Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Regulations?—November 27th, 1889. Any Legal Action?—No.

Any inspection or other action by districts to which milk is sent?—No.

Other Foods—

Number of samples (other than Milk) taken by Officer of S.A. for examination under the Food and Drugs Act—Nil.

Number of seizures of unsound food—Nil.

Any Public Abattoir?—No.

Number of Slaughterhouses—8. Number Registered—8. Number Licensed—Nil.

Number unsatisfactory, structurally, or in bad position?—Condition of 7 only fair.

Number of times each Slaughterhouse inspected?—5.

Total number of Inspections—40.

Number of Prosecutions (a) Food and Drugs—Nil. (b) Unsound Food—Nil. (c) Re Slaughterhouses—Nil.

Bakehouses, number—13. Any underground?—Nil. Total number of Inspections—18.

Schools—

Number of Schools in district—4.

Number visited by M.O.H.—3, on various occasions.

Action taken—Schools closed and disinfected.

Schools closed by M.O.H.—2.

Factories and Workshops—

Number of Smoke observations taken—Nil.

Number of Workshops—79. Total inspections—11.

Any Industrial Welfare Workers appointed—No.

Adoptive Acts—

Acts adopted during 1923—Nil.

Byelaws and Regulations—

Any ByeLaws made under Section 26 of Housing and Town Planning Act, 1919, as to houses divided into separate tenements—No.

Any others adopted or revised during 1923—No.

Any relaxation of Bye-Laws under Section 24 of Housing and Town Planning Act, 1919—No.

Infectious and other Diseases—

Diseases specially prevalent in 1923?—Slight prevalence of scarlet fever, mumps, and chickenpox.

State months—Mainly during first six months.

Any diseases specially added to notifiable list?—No.

Any influences threatening the health of the District?—No.

Any undue prevalence of Venereal Diseases?—No.

Any prevalence of Jaundice, and at what ages?—No.

Hospital and other Institutions—

(a) General: Accident—One. Address—Halifax Infirmary, Halifax. Children—One. Address—Halifax Infirmary, Children's Ward.

(b) Local: Infectious, General—One. Address—Fielden Hospital, Todmorden. Smallpox—One. Address—Sourhall Hospital, Todmorden.

(c) Maternity—None.

Any arrangements for nursing Puerperal Fever cases?—No.

(d) Clinic and Treatment Centre not provided by County Council Scheme—None.

Whether any other disease (e.g. Pneumonia) is treated in Infectious Diseases Hospital—No.

Tuberculosis—

(1) Inspection of patient's home and workshop—By Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector.

(2) Examination for contacts—Done at Tuberculosis Dispensary

(3) Is house disinfected?—Yes. When?—After removal of patient or after death.

(4) Leaflets, Lectures, etc., distributed—Yes.

(5) Action re spitting—Notices distributed in workshops.

(6) Is sputum examined apart from Dispensary?—No.

(7) Any special procedure adopted in cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis with T.B. in sputum—Flasks provided.

(8) Are the requirements of Tuberculosis Regulations as to notification observed by general practitioners?—Yes.

Bacteriology—

Any suggestions?—No.

Infant Mortality—

Any suggestions—No.

What organised effort to control it?—County Council Infant Welfare Centre.

Any voluntary Centres for Child or Mother Welfare?—No.

Causes of any excessive Infant Mortality in 1923—None.

Supply of Milk to Mothers and Infants. Any action?—Artificial foods supplied at reduced rates from Clinic.

Vital Statistics—

Births during 1923—Males 46, Females 32. Total 78.

Number illegitimate included in above—2.

Number of Still Births (not included)—5.

Deaths during 1923—(1) Gross Deaths, i.e., Total actually registered in the District without any correction—78.

(2) Nett Deaths on which rates are calculated—Males 37, Females 53.

Number of Uncertified Deaths (included above)—Nil.

Mortuaries—

What accommodation—(a) For accidents—Mortuary at Lewis Holme. (b) For infectious cases other than at hospital—No. (c) For other purposes—No.

Sanitary Staff—

What is the present Annual Salary of the M.O.H.?—£67.

Name of Sanitary Inspector—Herbert L. Bottomley.

Annual Salary as Inspector—£114 12s. 3d.

Other appointments held—Engineer and Surveyor.

Salary for such other appointments—£229 4s. 5d.

Any Assistants?—One.

Is Staff sufficient?—Yes.

Does M.O.H. receive copies of Memos. and Circulars distributed by Ministry of Health?—Yes.

Clinics.

Any suggestions?—

- (a) Tuberculosis—The establishment of a Tuberculosis Dispensary in Hebden Bridge.
- (b) Venereal Diseases—How advertised and if any difficulty in reaching nearest—No advertisement, but no difficulty in reaching nearest clinic.
- (c) Child Welfare—The changing of the day on which the Clinic is held to a day other than the local half-holiday.
- (d) Ante-Natal—No.
- (e) School—No.
- (f) Dental—No.

Any Remarks as to—

- (a) Voluntary Agencies for social betterment—No.
- (b) District Nursing Association—More work could be undertaken if some means of conveyance was provided for the Nurses.
- (c) Any Dispensary—No.
- (d) Health Visiting (co-operation with local M.O.H.)—No.
- (e) Tuberculosis, Home Visiting do. and medical attendant—No
- (f) Dental Services—No.
- (g) Midwifery Services—No.
- (h) Propaganda work re Tuberculosis, Child Welfare, or Venereal Diseases—No.

Housing—See Table D—but please state No. of Certificates given under Increase of Rent (Restriction) Act, 1920, Sec. 2 (2)—Nil.

Special Reports and Investigations on any Subjects—Nil.

SUPPLEMENTARY REMARKS as to Sanitary requirements of District, suggestions of M.O.H., and extended notes on any of the foregoing entries:—

It will be noted that fresh cases of overcrowding in the district have been brought to the notice of the Council during the year, consequently I deem it advisable to refer to housing matters generally, especially as nothing is disclosed in my report previously relating to the same. The question of housing has been before the Council on many occasions, but in view of the small area of undeveloped land in the Council's district, numerous difficulties were met with. Eventually a site was purchased at Eaves Bottom for the purpose of erecting 40 houses under the former Government proposals, and the first attempt to deal with the same was maturing when everything was held up. A second attempt was made, and tenders invited for 12 houses, on receipt of which particulars were forwarded to the Ministry, which resulted in a deputation from the Council interviewing the Director-General of Housing, at which interview it was reported to the Council that by reason of the exceedingly high tenders the Council should not proceed. In accordance therewith, the Council again put a stop to the scheme, and since then endeavours have been made to obtain the erection of houses in the district under the subsidy scheme, but so far without success.

TABLE D.**Summary of Housing Work during 1923.**

Table showing action under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning etc. Act, 1909, Section 28 of the 1919 Act, Section 10 of the 1923 Act, and the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, dated September 2nd, 1910, or matters arising therefrom.

Houses with defects not disposed of at end of 1922.

Houses not reasonably fit for habitation. Section 28, 1919; Section 10, 1923—0.

Houses (recorded under "Housing") with minor defects (Public Health Acts)—16.

Houses totally unfit (Sections 17 and 18) 1909—0.

Houses inspected for "Housing defects" in 1923 under Acts and Regulations.

Total inspected and recorded—70.

Houses found satisfactory on inspection—54.

Houses needing further action (allocated and dealt with under appropriate heads, Col. 7 to 12, or 13 to 16, or 17 to 26)—16.

Houses not reasonably fit. Action under Section 28, 1919; Section 10 of 1923.

Houses found with defects—0.

Houses of this class remedied without formal notice—0.

Houses in regard to which formal notices were served—0.

Houses made fit after formal notice—0.

Houses in respect of which the Council executed or were executing work in default of owner—0.

Houses in regard to which owner elected to close house instead of complying with notices—0.

Action under Public Health Acts in cases of houses with minor defects not remediable under Section 28, 1919; Section 10 of 1923.

Houses with defects—16.

Houses remedied without service of formal notice—9.

Houses in regard to which formal notices were served—3.

Houses made satisfactory after formal notice—3.

Unfit Houses. Action under Sections 17 or 18, 1909.

Houses found to be totally unfit—0.

Houses closed voluntarily—0.

Unfit houses remedied without formal notice—0.

Houses represented to Council for closing orders—0.

Houses in respect of which closing orders were made—0.

Houses closed after service of closing order—0.

Houses made fit and closing order determined by Council—0.

Houses demolished voluntarily—0.

Houses for which demolition orders were made by Council—0.

Houses demolished compulsorily—0.

Appeals.

Appeals against notices under Section 28, 1919, or Section 10, 1923—0.

Appeals against closing orders under Section 17, 1909—0.

Appeals under Section 17 (6) 1909, refusing to determine closing orders—0.

Appeals against demolition orders, Section 18, 1909—0.

Houses with defects not disposed of at end of 1923.

Houses not reasonably fit for habitation. Section 28, 1919; Section 10, 1923—0.

Houses (recorded under "Housing") with minor defects. (Public Health Acts)—4.

Houses totally unfit. (Sections 17 and 18), 1909—0.

Other Action in regard to Housing.

Total number of houses in district—1944.

Number of working-class houses—1848.

General standard compared with that of the Ministry of Health in Manual Vol. I., 1919.—Not good, but the peculiar contour of the district calls for a different standard than the general standard laid down by the Ministry.

Obstructive Buildings.—Any building represented by M.O.H. under Sec. 38 (1) of 1890 Act?—No.

Any building represented by Local Government Electors under Sec. 38 (2) of 1890 Act?—No.

Unhealthy Areas.—Any representations under Part I. or II. of the 1890 Act? If so give particulars—No.

Reconstruction Schemes.—Have Local Authority directed any to be prepared under Section 39 of 1890 Act?—No.

Conversion of Houses.—Any houses acquired for division into separate tenements, under the 1919 Act?—No.

Unfit Houses.—Any complaints by Local Government Electors under Section 51 of 1890 Act as amended by the 1923 Act?—No.

Any complaints by Parish Council under Section 6 (2) of the Local Government Act, 1894?—No.

Any action under Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts, 1899 to 1923?—No.

Any scarcity of houses, if so, where?—Yes, general.

Any overcrowding in houses, and where?—Yes, in seven houses, principally situated on the west side of Hebden Bridge.

Any special activity in house building, and where?—No.

STATE-AIDED HOUSING SCHEMES.

A. Scheme under 1919 Act:

Number of houses in 1923:

(1) By Council—Nil. (2) By Private Builders' Subsidy—Nil.

B. Scheme under 1923 Act:

Have Council propounded a scheme under this Act?—No.

Has a scheme been submitted to the Ministry of Health for their approval?—No.

Number of houses completed by Local Authority under this scheme in 1923—Nil.

Do. Private Persons do.—Nil.

Do. Public Utility Societies do.—Nil.

Total number of houses built in the district under all conditions in 1923. (a) Working Class Dwellings—Nil. (b) Other—Nil.

Any regulations made in respect of underground sleeping-rooms under (Sec. 17, 7) 1909 Act?—No. Any action thereunder?—Nil.

TOWN PLANNING.

Have Council joined a Regional Town Planning Committee?—No.

Have Council passed a resolution in 1923 deciding to prepare a scheme?—No.

Any scheme contemplated?—No.

Have Council propounded a scheme in 1923?—No.

Has a scheme been submitted to the Ministry of Health during 1923?—No.

Has a preliminary statement been prepared and submitted to the Ministry for approval?—No.

Name and address of Officer designated to make inspections under Article II. of Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910.—Mr. Herbert L. Bottomley, Sandy Gate, Hebden Bridge.

(Signed)

FRANCIS J. DOWDALL, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O.,

Medical Officer of Health.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

Gentlemen,—

I beg to present my report as Sanitary Inspector for the year ending December 31st, 1923.

SANITARY CONVENIENCES.—The number of pail or tub closets at present in use is 71. The number of water closets has been increased by 20, 17 of these being to dwelling-houses and 3 installed in various workshops, factories, etc.; the total number of conveniences now on the water-carriage system being 1700. There are still six ash-places in existence, there being a reduction of two during the year.

NUISANCES.—There have been 29 instances when informal notices were served upon property-owners to abate nuisances or remove complaints, a decrease of one on last year's total. In three cases only was it necessary to serve statutory notices, after which immediate attention was given to the complaints and the nuisances abated.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—Seven cases of Diphtheria, 31 of Scarlet Fever, and one of Enteric Fever have been notified during the year, a total of 39, as against 81 last year. All the patients were removed to the Hospital for treatment except four, these being attended to at home.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.—These places of employment have been kept under constant supervision, and no serious complaints are recorded for the past year.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.—I am again compelled to mention the structurally defective condition of several of the privately-owned slaughter-houses in the district; neither are they suitably adapted for the slaughtering of cattle, etc.

HOUSE-TO-HOUSE INSPECTION. — One hundred houses have been inspected as required by the 1909 Act, this bringing the number of houses to 1,830 which have been dealt with under the Act. These inspections have resulted in the discovery of overcrowding, defective drains and sanitary fittings, structural defects, dampness, etc., the majority of which have been dealt with either by means of informal notices or by statutory notices.

MILK SUPPLY.—Four samples of milk have been taken and analysed for adulteration. The results proved the milk to be genuine in every case.

COWSHEDS. — The 13 cowsheds situate in the district, together with other premises subject to special regulations, have all been regularly inspected and found satisfactory.

Your obedient servant,

H. L. BOTTOMLEY, M.R.S.I.,

Inspector.

CANAL BOAT REPORT.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

Sir and Gentlemen,—

The number of Canal Boats inspected during the year ending December 31st, 1923, is three, and they were found to be kept in accordance with and conformed to the Canal Boats Acts and Regulations.

The registered sleeping accommodation was for twelve adults, and the actual number occupying the cabins was eight men and one woman.

The number of boats using the canal is very small, now that the Canal Company have ceased as carriers.

Yours obediently,

H. L. BOTTOMLEY, M.R.S.I.,

Inspector.